

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acid, chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, heparin, heparan sulfate and keratan sulfate.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the temperature is maintained at 1 to 37°C during ultraviolet ray irradiation.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the ultraviolet ray is at a wavelength of 250 to 450 nm.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a purified low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan having a molecular weight of 200 to 1,000,000 Da, which comprises irradiating a crude glycosaminoglycan containing ultraviolet ray-absorbing contaminants, comprising at least one of proteins, nucleic acids, and pigments, with an ultraviolet ray to lower the molecular weight of the glycosaminoglycan and simultaneously decompose and remove the contaminants.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein said glycosaminoglycan is a chondroitin sulfate selected from the group consisting of chondroitin sulfate A, chondroitin sulfate C, chondroitin sulfate D, and chondroitin sulfate E.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein said temperature is maintained at 10 to 25°C during ultraviolet ray irradiation.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the molecular weight of said low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan is 4,000 to 400,000 Da.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the molecular weight of said low molecular weight glycosaminoglycan is 4,000 to 20,000 Da.